

## Message Text

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47

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W  
----- 053703

R 131406Z DEC 74  
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4856  
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY OSLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 5992

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, NL, NO  
SUBJ: GUIDANCE ON US RESERVATION RE SVALBARD TREATY

REF: STATE 262659; OSLO 5219

SUMMARY: DUTCH GOVERNMENT IS DEFINITELY CONSIDERING  
FILING A RESERVATION WITH NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT ON  
DUTCH RIGHTS ON CONTINENTAL SHELF OFF SVALBARD AND IS  
GATHERING DATA TO DETERMINE HOW BEST TO PHRASE SUCH  
A RESERVATION. END SUMMARY.

1.FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICER IN CHARGE OF NORTHERN  
AND CENTRAL EUROPEAN AFFAIRS VAN SOEST TOLD ECON  
COUNSELOR DEC 12 THAT NETHERLANDS DEFINITELY IS  
CONSIDERING FILING A RESERVATION WITH NORWEGIAN  
GOVERNMENT ON DUTCH RIGHTS ON CONTINENTAL SHELF OFF  
SVALBARD UNDER 1920 PARIS TREATY. HE ADDED THAT IN  
ADDITION TO FORMAL RESERVATION OF UK, DENMARK AND  
US, HE HAD LEARNED THAT FRENCH HAD ALSO MADE AN  
ORAL RESERVATION. HE SAID DUTCH EMBASSIES IN MOSCOW,  
OSLO AND WASHINGTON HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO REPORT  
ANYTHING THEY COULD LEARN REGARDING OUTCOME AND  
ANY UNDERSTANDINGS REACHED DURING NOVEMBER NORWEGIAN-  
SOVIET MEETING IN MOSCOW. HE ADDED THAT ONCE ALL  
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FACTS WERE GATHERED, AND IN NOT-TOO-DISTANT FUTURE,

DUTCH GOVERNMENT WOULD DECIDE ON HOW BEST TO COUCH ITS RESERVATION TO NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT. HE MADE SPECIAL POINT THAT DUTCH, WHILE FULLY AWARE OF ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF FILING ARESERVATION, WERE EVEN MORE CONCERNED WITH POLITICAL-MILITARY ASPECTS INVOLVED SUCH AS HOW BEST TO COUNTER RUSSIAN ADVANTAGES IN AREA AND HOW TO MAINTAIN SECURITY OF OIL INSTALLATIONS IN NORTH SEA AND ARCTIC OCEAN. HE SAID HE WOULD WELCOME ANY INFORMATION EMBASSY COULD PROVIDE REGARDING US ATTITUDES, ACTIONS, AND POSSIBLE ADVICE ON HOW TO DEAL WITH "THIS VERY COMPLEX AND IMPORTANT AREA OF INTERNATIONAL AND NATO INTERESTS".

2. COMMENT: IN VIEW APPARENT COMMONALITY OF INTERESTS, WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT WE BE AS FORTHCOMING WITH DUTCH AS POSSIBLE. THEREFORE, IT WOULD HELP US TO KNOW WHETHER DUTCH HAVE YET BEEN INFORMED REGARDING CONTENT OF US NOTE OR RESERVATION (REFTELS). WE WOULD ALSO WELCOME DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE ON HOW TO RESPOND TO DUTCH QUERIES REGARDING OUTCOME OF SVALBARD TALKS IN MOSCOW AS WELL AS POLITICAL, MILITARY AND SECURITY ASPECTS OF ISSUES NOW ARISING REGARDING SVALBARD AREA AND HOW WE THINK THEY SHOULD BE ADDRESSED.  
GOULD

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SVALBARD, INSTRUCTIONS, AGREEMENTS, MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Subject:** GUIDANCE ON US RESERVATION RE SVALBARD TREATY  
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